

## August 2023 Prayer

Prayer:

### **Micah 6:8**

*He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

**Afghanistan**— Life for Christians in Afghanistan is extremely harsh. The Taliban now claim that there are no Christians left in the country, but in reality, they are in hiding, knowing that the Taliban is trying to eradicate Christianity. Other citizens are compensated monetarily for turning in any Christians they know. When Christians are captured, they are tortured or even killed. Some Christians have fled to Pakistan, where they find treatment is not any better. They also lack the financial resources to move to a safer country. Please pray for God's mercy on this country that is struggling with a poor economy, unjust treatment of women, and religious persecution. Praise God that in the rural mountains of Afghanistan, Christians are secretly holding prayer meetings and sharing the gospel with a people that is growing ever dissatisfied with the corrupt government. Pray that their hearts would be open and ready to receive the gospel. And pray that the Christians there would be safe as they boldly proclaim the truth. (Source: International Christian Concern)

**Niger**— Children are now the main target of Jihad fighters in the Sahel region, which is south of the Sahara Desert. Schools are attacked, some children are killed, and many children are recruited into their army. Most of the extreme Muslim fighters come from Mali and are targeting Christians in particular. Pray for these young ones who are separated from their families and forced to fight. Pray for their faith in Christ to not waver and for them to cling to Him and call out to Him for help. Pray for their deliverance from this slavery. (Source: Amnesty International)

**Southeast Asia**— Ramdan was a Muslim who had a Christian coworker and became interested in his faith in Christ. He started reading the Bible, accepted the Lord, and was baptized. When he told his family about his conversion, they beat him and cast him out of the family. He also lost his job when they found that he had become a believer. Ramdan and his wife, who also accepted the Lord, are now living in a rented apartment, hidden from his family who still want to bring him back to Islam. Please pray for these two new believers to grow in their faith despite persecution. Pray that they would have the support of the body of Christ and enjoy that fellowship. Pray that God would meet their needs for a job. Pray also for his family to realize the truth of the gospel. (Source: International Christian Concern)

**Burkina Faso** — Since 2021, due to unrest, almost 8000 people in Burkina Faso have been killed and 2 million people have been displaced from their homes. Armed conflict between Al-Qaeda-related forces and the military has resulted in numerous killings of innocent civilians, particularly of the Fulani tribe. Although the military is supposedly fighting against extremist groups, many innocents are being caught in the crossfire. These circumstances are amounting to legitimate war crimes, and the military continues this brutality with impunity. Recently, 8 children under 16 were severely beaten by the military. Please pray for protection for the civilians of this country, and pray for comfort for those who have suffered. Pray that the military would be just and have provost marshals present at all military campaigns to protect the innocent. Please pray for the Prince of Peace to bring peace to this region. (Source: Human Rights Watch)

**China**— In an attempt to control religion and force citizens to be loyal to the Communist Party above God, Chinese leaders are twisting and altering the Bible. One university text edits the Gospel's account of Jesus speaking with the adulterous woman after he tells the people that whoever is without sin to cast the first stone. Though the true words of Jesus are for her to go and sin no more, the Chinese version falsely ends with Jesus himself stoning her to death! Also, in Henan province, Protestant churches are required to change the 10 Commandments in the Bible to Xi Jinping's quotes. For example, "You shall have no other gods before me" has become "Resolutely guard against the infiltration of western ideology." Please pray for the perfect word of God to be preserved and preached and spread in this country that seeks to make the party its god. Pray for the underground church to be strong and united. Pray that they would call on the Lord for help and to remember that when they are weak, He is strong, and that His word is everlasting. (Source: International Christian Concern)

**Ukraine**— In addition to enduring the horrendous brutality of the war, Christians in the Ukraine seem to have been singled out for particular attacks. Russian soldiers have damaged or destroyed over 500 churches and tortured or killed over 24 Christian leaders since the start of the war. Please pray that this awful war, this valley of suffering, will come to a swift end so that lives will be spared. Pray that God would use the hardship to rouse unbelievers to a knowledge of Him and that they would call on Him for deliverance. Pray for cruel and wicked leaders to be justly punished and removed from positions of power and that innocent civilians could return to normal life. (Source: Global Christian Relief)

**Israel**— Messianic Jews have faced more opposition in Jerusalem recently, as some activists have condemned their gathering together. Jerusalem's deputy mayor, Arieh King, joined a group of extremists in chanting, "Missionaries go home" at a group of Messianic Jews who had assembled by the Western Wall to pray. In addition, the Lehava and the Or l'Achim organizations tried to prevent Messianic believers from attending a convention in Jerusalem. The deputy mayor says he is not against their belief but against them proselytizing. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Israel, as they seek to be salt and light and show their friends and

neighbors that Jesus is the true Messiah. Pray that their efforts would be fruitful and that this opposition would miraculously strengthen their witness and lead many more to Jesus. (Source: International Christian Concern)

**Iran**— Despite the continual threat of arrest, imprisonment, and death, and despite continual human rights abuses targeted at believers in this extremely hostile country, Iran has the fastest-growing church in the world. Twenty years ago there were roughly 5,000 to 10,000 Christians from Muslim backgrounds, and now there are close to 1 million, according to Operation World. Online Bible studies are multiplying at amazing rates as Iranians are coming to Jesus and His offer of grace. Please pray that nothing would thwart God's mighty work in this country. Pray that as many come to faith, they would find fellowship and opportunities to study the Bible and grow in discipleship. Pray that they would be one body even though so many of them are hidden and unknown to one another. And praise God for this awesome work of His spirit and the reminder of the hidden kingdom of God and that often persecution brings great spiritual growth. (Source: The Gospel Coalition)

**Eritrea**— There are at least an estimated 400-500 Christians in prison for their faith in Eritrea, often held in shipping containers, with no trial or clear sentence. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, these containers keep them in complete darkness, and there are torture chambers in the back of the containers. One former prisoner, however, shared that he was able to baptize 50 prisoners while in prison by saving toilet and shower water. So, praise God, despite the torture, people are coming to faith. Please pray that many more would find Jesus in these dire circumstances. Pray that Christians would be a light in this dark place. Pray for those like Haile and Kiflu who have been in prison for almost 19 years to have miraculous endurance and perseverance and to experience freedom very soon. (Source: Human Rights Watch, International Christian Concern)

**India**— During an attack in May when at least 120 Christians were killed in Manipur, a video was taken of two women being dragged from a police car by a mob and brutally attacked and raped. This video recently went viral and caused international outrage. One woman's father and brother were killed when they tried to save them. Because the perpetrators are shown on the footage, a few have been arrested. Also as a result of the video, the Prime Minister and Supreme Court of India are finally speaking out against these crimes. Pray that the publicity after the horrific footage will lead to protection for Christians in India and the perpetrators will be brought to justice. Please pray for comfort for the families of the two men who died. And pray specifically for these two women, one in her 20s and one in her 50s, to experience God's healing and comfort after this unfathomable, terrible suffering. (Source: Open Doors)